



File Code: 2820
Date: April 8, 2019

Edwin L. Roberson
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1345

Dear Mr. Roberson,

This response is provided to the letter dated November 28, 2018, regarding Interwest Mining Company's submission of federal coal lease relinquishments for the Deer Creek and Cottonwood Mines, located within the Forest boundary in Emery County, Utah.

In the September, 1996 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (10-MOU-97-001), the Forest Service as surface management agency will make a determination after the lease relinquishment documentation has been provided and the area inspected. The MOU also states that the surface management agency will inspect impacted and high risk areas to evaluate the significance of disturbance and need for restoration and/or mitigation.

The Forest is satisfied with the relinquishment documentation provided by Interwest Mining, however we have not had the opportunity to perform site inspections since the dates identified in the lease relinquishment submittals. This is due in part to the June 2018 Trail Mountain Wildfire, which burned over 50% of the Deer Creek Mine LMU and the heavy snow accumulation received in the area this fall and winter.

Specific lease serial numbers to be inspected: UTU-06039, UTU-040151, UTU-024317, UTU-088554, UTSL-051221

The Forest recognizes that this is a time sensitive action. Site inspections will commence as soon as sites with significant subsidence are accessible. Upon completion of site inspections, the Forest will specify one of the following:

1. The terms and conditions of the special lease stipulations have been met;
2. The lease area is not stable and adequate time has not lapsed to adequately evaluate potential impacts on other Federal resources;
3. Surface reclamation, resource restoration or mitigation is necessary on the lease which will have to be satisfactorily accomplished before relinquishment is acceptable; or



4. Sufficient data has not been provided for the Forest Service to make a recommendation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeff Salow at 435-636-3596 or jsalow@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Nehl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Nehl" clearly distinguishable.

RYAN NEHL
Forest Supervisor

cc: Heidie Torrealday (USFS), Sharon Gresl (USFS), Steve Christensen (UDOGM)